



### **The Sunday of the Blind Man**

The Lord Jesus was coming from the temple on the Sabbath, when, while walking in the way, He saw the blind man mentioned in today's Gospel. This man had been born thus from his mother's womb, that is, he had been born without eyes (see Saint John Chrysostom, Homily LVI on Matthew; Saint Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*, Book V: 15; and the second Exorcism of Saint Basil the Great). When the disciples saw this, they asked their Teacher, "Who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" They asked this because when the Lord had healed the paralytic at the Sheep's Pool, He had told him, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (John 5:14); so they wondered, if sickness was caused by sin, what sin could have been the cause of his being born without eyes. But the Lord answered that this was for the glory of God. Then the God-man spat on the ground and made clay with the spittle. He anointed the eyes of the blind man and said to him, "Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam." Siloam (which means "sent") was a well-known spring in Jerusalem used by the inhabitants for its waters, which flowed to the eastern side of the city and collected in a large Pool called "the Pool of Siloam."

Therefore, the Saviour sent the blind man to this pool that he might wash his eyes, which had been anointed with the clay—not that the pool's water had such power, but that the faith and obedience of the one sent might be made manifest, and that the miracle might become more remarkable and known to all, and leave no room for doubt. Thus, the blind man believed in Jesus' words, obeyed His command, went and washed himself, and returned, no longer

blind, but having eyes and seeing. This was the greatest miracle that our Lord had yet worked; as the man healed of his blindness himself testified, "Since time began, never was it heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind," although the Lord had already healed the blind eyes of many. Because he now had eyes, some even doubted that he was the same person (John 9:8-9); and it was still lively in their remembrance when Christ came to the tomb of Lazarus, for they said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have caused that even this man should not have died?" Saint John Chrysostom gives a thorough and brilliant exposition of our Lord's meeting with the woman of Samaria, the healing of the paralytic, and the miracle of the blind man in his commentaries on the Gospel of Saint John.

*Dismissal Hymn. Plagal of Fourth Tone  
The Original Melody*

**L**ET us worship the Word, O ye faithful, praising Him \* that with the Father and Spirit is co-beginningless God, \* Who was born of a pure Virgin that we all be saved; \* for He was pleased to mount the Cross \* in the flesh that He assumed, accepting thus to endure death. \* And by His glorious rising, He also willed to resurrect the dead.

*Kontakion. Fourth Tone  
On this day Thou hast appeared*

**B**EING blinded in the eyes \* of my soul, O Saviour, \* I come unto Thee, O Christ, as did the man who was born blind. \* And in repentance I cry to Thee: \* Of those in darkness art Thou art the most radiant Light.

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†HE †HEOTOKOS OF THE SIGN

Selected Hymns from  
THE MENAION

OIKOS

**G**RANT me a stream of ineffable wisdom and knowledge from on high, O Christ, Thou light of them that are in darkness and Guide of all them that are gone astray, that I may tell of those things that the divine book of the Gospel of peace hath taught. To wit, the miracle that was wrought on the blind man: for though blind from birth, he receiveth the physical eyes as well as the eyes of the soul, as he crieth out in faith: Of those in darkness art Thou the most radiant light.

*The synaxarion of the Menaion, then the following:*

On this day, the sixth Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the miracle wrought by our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ upon the man who was blind from his birth.

*Verses*

O Bestower of light, Who art Light  
coming forth from Light,  
Thou didst give eyes to the man who  
Was blind from his birth, O Word.

By Thy boundless mercy, O Christ our God,  
Giver of Light, have mercy on us.  
Amen.

ODE EIGHT

*Of the Blind Man*

**T**HOU gavest eyes unto the blind man who came unto Thee, O Christ. Thou didst command him to wash at the spring of Siloam and so to gain his sight, and to proclaim Thee as God, Who appeared in the flesh for the salvation of the world.

*Another Exapostilarion  
Harken, ye women*

**A**LONG the way, our Saviour found \* a man who lacked both sight and eyes. \* And making clay with His spittle, the Lord anointed him therewith. \* He sent the man to wash in Siloam, \* that he might go and wash therein. \* And having washed as he was told, \* O Christ, he came away seeing, \* and he beheld Thy divine light.